

SJF

SCHOOL NEWS

ISSUE ONE

Principal's Corner

Happy Catholic Schools Week! As I navigate my new and exciting role, I have been thinking about the value of a Catholic education and what makes SJF so distinctive. For one, I truly appreciate how a Catholic education is infused with prayer and tradition, and that it offers more than a just an "academic" setting - it provides a safe, nurturing environment for students to discover their individuality while learning to value the uniqueness of others. More than ever, I find that self-confidence, respect and empathy are essential attributes as our youth develop in our society.

Second, as for SJF, I absolutely treasure the "it takes a village" model that we inherited from the thousands of SJF families that came before us. Whether we realize it or not, we are all doing our part to empower the next SJF generation to be compassionate, confident, smart leaders. I also admire how the SJF community honors our strong legacy and rich history while maintaining an appetite for progression in our academics, spiritual engagement and more.

In 2019, I will seek out innovative ways to further enrich our students, support our teachers and strengthen the bond between the parish & school. Meanwhile, the dynamic SJF teachers will continue to maintain our intellectual vitality, and countless others will continue to instill strong sportsmanship, encourage community service and cultivate global respect and self-love in our youth. I vow to lead a school built on trust and confidence, and with open ears, because we are all in this "village" together.

I look forward to getting to know every family, and celebrating your children's successes with you. Together, I am confident that we are going to keep the SJF momentum going! *"I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. But together, we can do great things."* - Mother Teresa

In unity and hope,
Mrs. Maura Nash

SJF SPIRIT

It will be four years this coming February when I first set foot into St. John Fisher School. Back then, I was finishing up my assignment as Vicar for Priests and was asked to consider becoming a pastor again. That process required that pastor-candidates identify a minimum of three parishes, visit them, and sit and chat with the pastor and staff. Several my friends suggested that I investigate SJF, and so I did. At the urging of one of those friends, I phoned Sister Jean before my visit, and she spoke enthusiastically about the parish and school. She insisted that I should stop by the school when I came to visit.

So, on that cold February day in 2015, I pulled into the parking lot not knowing what to expect. After chatting with the pastor for a while, he suggested that I should go and visit the school. We passed through the church while the 8th Grade was practicing for Confirmation -such a large class, I thought- and, they were all smiling! We walked through the school and all the students were -smiling! Even the teachers were smiling! The school had such a wonderful spirit to it. As I chatted with Sister Jean, and later, Dr. Chermak, faculty and parents were popping into the faculty lounge to say "Hi!" I walked out of that meeting asking myself "Why wouldn't I want to be here?"

That same spirit carries on here today at St. John Fisher School. Under the firm and loving guidance of our principal Mrs. Maura Nash, formed in our Faith by Dr. Elena Chermak, and educated and cared for by our exceptional faculty and staff, students continue to be encouraged and affirmed. They continue to grow in wisdom and grace, strengthened by the confidence that SJF is preparing these young Falcons for their futures. And, they continue to - smile!

Fr. Ken Budzikowski
Pastor, SJF

#SJFhappenings

Queen of Hearts Raffle (Over \$80K in the pot) Buy tickets: after school on Tuesday/Thursday, at all SJF home games after 10 a.m. mass on Sunday, through Venmo Sellers, (Mary Kay O'Leary & Erin Rech) and everyday at Cork!

02.02.19 Trivia Night! Kane Hall, 6:30 p.m., \$30, BYOB.

02.17.19 Comedy Night with Pat McGann & Co.! School Gym, \$35/pp or \$350/table of 10, \$10 for balcony, doors open at 5:30 p.m., show starts promptly at 6:30 p.m., BYOB, RSVP sjfcomedynight@gmail.com & money due in rectory by Feb 1.

02.19.19 Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Kane Hall, All are Welcome! Visit www.sjfschool.net for board minutes & agenda.

03.09.19 SJF Inaugural St. Baldrick's Shaving Event! Kane Hall, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Stay tuned for sign-up information as a shavee, fundraiser or volunteer!
5 p.m. Mass

6 p.m. Irish Dinner & Good Craic!
\$40/family, \$20/couple, \$10/pp, includes corned beef dinner, soda bread, bag-pipers, Irish dancers, and more. Queen of Hearts Raffle and cash bar available!
RSVP info coming soon!

This newsletter is produced by the SAB in collaboration with SJF Faculty & Staff. If you have any content to share, please email Mary Walsh-Neumann (neumann567@gmail.com), Sara McGann (saramcgann@gmail.com) and/or Nikki Carey (hynesecarey@gmail.com). Limited print copies available at the school office, as well.



ST. JOHN FISHER
SCHOOL

Faculty Spotlight



Mrs. Beth Foran
Kindergarten Teacher

How long have you been at SJF and why do you love it here? I have been teaching 25 happy years at SJF! I absolutely love teaching our little Falcons! It's always a joyful atmosphere in kindergarten! Watching the "light bulb go on" is one of the best feelings ever! And story time is always magical. Wiggly

bodies can be as still as a statue when listening to a story! It's precious! Life is exciting for small children and I am privileged to witness their accomplishments and enthusiasm!

How do you encourage good behavior with your little ones? In Room 114, the "Star Jar" is a BIG deal! Anyone caught with especially good behavior can enter his/her name in the jar. Being in the Star Jar means that your name just might be drawn on Friday for a prize! (Dum-Dum sucker or Smarties! Yahoo!) We also use a "Bug Jar" where the quietest tables get to put a "bug" in their table jar. The bug jar with the most bugs on Friday also wins a sucker or Smarties! Sometimes we can even earn a "whole class star jar"! Life is good in kindergarten!

Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? You may not know this about me: I am the youngest of six children. I have three big brothers and two big sisters. (However, now we're all the same age!) My husband and I have five children: four boys & one queen. We also have five grandchildren: four girls & one prince!

I SPY FALCONS

Katie Canavan, '15 (Marist, '19)

My favorite memory from Fisher was winning the Gold Ball for basketball. Our team had said from the first day of practice in sixth grade that winning that championship was our ultimate end goal. I will never forget the feeling when the buzzer went off in that game and we had finally won, but more so I will always remember the fun we had as a team off of the court. From cooking dinner together at the Ronald McDonald House to getting celebratory ice cream after big wins, I will never forget that team or the memories we made.



Each teacher I had at Fisher prepared me to be successful once I got to high school. From Mrs. Caffrey in kindergarten all the way to Mrs. G in eighth grade, these role models supported and encouraged me to be the best student and person I could be. I immediately felt confident that I was able to tackle anything that was thrown my way at Marist which led me to the successes I've gained.

My biggest piece of advice for current falcons is to branch out and get as involved as you can in high school. It is the best way to meet new people and find something you are really passionate about.

FACT OR FICTION

In 1950, enrollment was 845.

(Answer on the bottom.)

Roses & Hats Off to These Folks

To our **PreK-1st grade teachers** and **8th grade student volunteers** who hosted two additional open houses for prospective families!

To **parents** who keep safety in mind, driving slowly and cautiously around the school campus during entry and dismissal times!

To our **maintenance staff** who work tirelessly and efficiently to remove snow & salt sidewalks to ensure that the SJF campus is safe!

STAY TUNED

for new SJF Facebook Page (& other social media handles) for the most current updates & information!

Get Social with Us!

 @SJFschool

 stjohfisher

 St. John Fisher Elementary School